

BOF

Bridge Owners' Forum

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Call by the Bridge Owners' Forum for proposals on bridge related research

A primary function of the Bridge Owners' Forum, acting on behalf of the UK Bridges Board and Department for Transport, is to identify needs and priorities in bridge research.

BOF is now inviting submissions for funding for bridge related research. At the next meeting of BOF on May 15th 2007 proposals will be reviewed and those short-listed will be submitted to the UK Bridges Board for funding in the next financial year starting in April 2008.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **Wednesday 9th May 2007**, i.e. Wednesday week.

The proposal form, which is attached, has deliberately been kept short to minimise the effort required at this preliminary stage. Referees' reports will only be sought for those projects short-listed at the next BOF meeting.

Proposals should preferably be sent by email to: research@bridgeforum.org or else by post or fax to me at the address given on the letterhead above.

Each year the Department of Transport allocates funding for priority research projects on the basis of recommendations from the Bridge Owners' Forum. A list of research projects funded to date is attached. Although most funding for research supported by BOF has been provided by the Department for Transport, several other organisations have also contributed funds, e.g. the Highways Agency, Network Rail, Department for Regional Development (NI) and the County Surveyors Society.

In 2006/07 15 proposals were received and 4 were selected and submitted to the Bridges Board. All four were subsequently approved for funding by the Minister for Transport.

To give some guidance to researchers I have attached a BOF document titled *Key Issues for Research* which lists specific problems or projects that owners deem to be of high importance and hope researchers may be able to address. In addition, a second BOF document titled *Challenges 2007/08* is available on the BOF website (www.bridgeforum.org). This outlines in more general thematic terms the major challenges facing bridge managers today.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,



Campbell Middleton
Chairman,
UK Bridge Owners' Forum

Attachments: 1. BOF Research Proposal Form
 2. BOF Research Key Issues document
 3. BOF Research Projects